

Message Text

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TAGS : BEXP, ELTN, NI

SUBJ : RAILROAD EQUIPMENT TRADE MISSION, APRIL 6-13, 1975

REF : A. LAGOS 7614

B. LAGOS 8153

C. LAGOS 9410

1. REF (C) REPORTED LAST-MINUTE DECISION BY FMG TO CONVERT RAILROAD TRACK SYSTEM NATIONWIDE FROM NARROW GAUGE TO STANDARD GAUGE, STARTING IN THIRD DEVELOPMENT PLAN PERIOD (1975-80). THIS DECISION, REPORTEDLY MADE AT VERY HIGH LEVEL, HAS NECESSITATED COMPLETE REVAMPING OF THIRD PLAN PROGRAM FOR RAIL SECTOR. THOUGH NO DEFINITE NEW PLAN HAS YET EMERGED, WE REPORT BELOW WHAT WE NOW KNOW OF ITS PROBABLE SHAPE, FOR GUIDANCE OF COMMERCE IN RECRUITING TRADE MISSION MEMBERS.

2. ESSENTIALLY, IT APPEARS THAT THIRD PLAN ALLOCATION OF DOLS410 MILLION FOR PROJECTS APPROVED BY FMEDR IN LATE AUGUST WILL BE PARED DOWN TO ABOUT DOLS160 MILLION. SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THIS ALLOCATION, HOWEVER, WILL BE FURTHER SUM OF ABOUT DOLS2.4 BILLION TO COVER THE COSTS OF CONVERSION TO STANDARD-GAUGE TRACK OVER PERIOD 1975-90. OF THIS, SOME DOLS1.04 BILLION EXPECTED TO BE DISTRIBUTED DURING 1975-80 PERIOD, GIVING TOTAL THIRD PLAN EXPENDITURES OF ABOUT DOLS1.2 BILLION.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR PRESENT INFORMATION, STILL TENTATIVE, DOLS160 MILLION REDUCED VERSION OF ORIGINAL THIRD PLAN ALLOCATION WILL PROBABLY BREAK DOWN ROUGHLY AS FOLLOWS:

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INVESTMENT CATEGORY	DOLS MILLION
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A. LOCOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE (WORKS AND EQUIPMENT)	5.1
B. ROLLING STOCK MAINTENANCE (WORKS AND EQUIPMENT)	4.9
C. ACQUISITION OF 40 MAIN LINE DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES	16.0
D. ACQUISITION OF 500 WAGONS	16.0
E. ACQUISITION OF 100 PASSENGER COACHES	19.2
F. EXPANSION OF LAGOS AREA COMMUTER SERVICE (CIVIL ENGINEERING AND SIGNALLING)	2.7
G. TRACK IMPROVEMENTS	24.0
H. BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS	3.2
I. STATION REMODELLING	.2
J. SIGNALLING	3.2
K. COMMUNICATIONS	3.2
L. ACQUISITION OF SHUNTING LOCOMOTIVES	6.4
M. PLANT AND MACHINERY (CIVIL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, O&C, AND ADMINISTRATION	3.7
N. PASSENGER FACILITIES AT STATIONS	1.8
O. OTHER FACILITIES FOR OPERATIONS	1.6
P. OTHER BUILDINGS (ESP. STAFF QUARTERS)	20.0
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Q. STAFF TRAINING	5.0
R. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS (ESP. TRAIN LIGHTING DEVELOPMENT, ELECTRIC WORKS)	4.8
S. SURVEYS AND STUDIES	3.0
T. NEW HEADQUARTERS OFFICE BUILDING	16.0

TOTAL 160.0

4. CONVERSION TO STANDARD-GUAGE TRACK BROKEN DOWN INTO THREE FIVE-YEAR PHASES. PHASE I-II (1975-85) AS FOLLOWS:

DOLS. MILLION

A. GRADING AND TRACK	1,325
B. BRIDGES	21
C. MARSHALLING YARDS	80
D. STATION RELOCATION	80
E. SIGNALLING (TOKENLESS MECHANICAL SYSTEM)	96
F. CONVERSION OF MAINTENANCE FACILITIES	19
G. ROLLING STOCK (ACQUISITION OF NEW WAGONS AND COACHES, CONVERSION OF OLD ONES)	325
H. LOCOMOTIVES (ACQUISITION AND CONVERSION)	112

TOTAL 2,058

5. PHASE III (1985-90) AS FOLLOWS:

A. DOUBLE TRACKING	240.0
B. DOUBLE TRACKING ON BRIDGES	2.4
C. SIGNALLING: CENTRALIZED TRAFFIC CONTROL (SINGLE SYSTEM)	46.0
D. SIGNALLING: CENTRALIZED TRAFFIC CONTROL (DOUBLE SYSTEM)	68.8

TOTAL 357.2

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YM ABOVE FIGURES STILL VERY TENTATIVE, AND MAY UNDERGO MAJOR CHANGES. IT IS EVIDENT HOWEVER THAT CONSTRUCTION OF TRACK WILL BE BY FAR MAJOR EXPENDITURE OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS. IS THEREFORE MORE ADVISABLE THAN EVER THAT TRADE MISSION INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE MAJOR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INTERESTED IN BIDDING ON THIS WORK.

7. KNOWLEDGE OF ABOVE INFORMATION MUST NOT BE DISPLAYED AT THIS TIME BY BUSINESSMEN TO NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES AS THIS WOULD COMPROMISE THE SOURCE.

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